

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



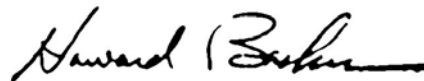
Governor

Date: May 21, 2007

IZB-FY0607-10

TO: California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Providers

FROM: Howard Backer, MD, MPH, Chief
Immunization Branch



SUBJECT: Unavailability of Merck's MMR-V Vaccine (ProQuad[®]),

Background

Merck & Co., Inc. has notified all customers that they are unable to supply MMR-V vaccine beginning July 2007 through the end of this year. The California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program will immediately begin transitioning VFC providers to order separate MMR and varicella vaccine orders, instead of MMR-V.

Earlier in the year, Merck & Co., Inc. notified the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of lower than expected yields of varicella-zoster virus (VZV), which is used in the production of three of their vaccine products: the varicella vaccine (Varivax[®]), the MMR-V vaccine (ProQuad[®]), and the zoster vaccine (Zostavax[®]). Since then, Merck had prioritized production of varicella and zoster vaccines over production of MMR-V vaccine. According to Merck's current projections, ProQuad[®] will be unavailable beginning in July 2007 and it is not expected to be available for the remainder of 2007.

Merck expects to continue to meet demands for Varivax[®] and M-M-R II[®] to fully implement the recommended immunization schedule. This will allow for continued use of varicella vaccine for all age groups, including the routine two-dose schedule for children ages 12-15 months and 4-6 years, the second dose catch-up vaccination for children or adolescents who received only one dose, and the two-dose vaccination for other children, adolescents, and adults without evidence of immunity.

M-M-R II[®] and Varivax[®] vaccines must not be combined in the same syringe. The vaccines should be administered using separate syringes at different anatomic sites. Correct storage and handling of all vaccines is extremely important and should be reviewed with all office staff. MMR and varicella vaccines are vulnerable to heat and light. Varicella vaccine must be stored at temperatures of 5°F or below; MMR vaccine

can be stored in the refrigerator or freezer. Adjusting thermostats to lower freezer temperatures in combination refrigerator/freezer units may lower refrigerator temperatures. It is extremely important to be aware of temperatures in all areas of your refrigerator unit and avoid storage of vaccines near vents, in the doors or in the "crisper" areas of the refrigerator units. Inactivated vaccines will be irreversibly damaged by exposure to freezing temperatures.

Further information is available in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5618a6.htm>).

VFC Ordering

Effective immediately and until further notice, California's VFC Program will **not** accept any orders for MMR-V vaccine. Instead, providers should submit orders for MMR and varicella vaccines. We expect that all orders that have been submitted prior to receiving this notice will be filled by Merck. Please remember that orders for MMR-V have been taking 4-5 weeks for delivery.

Any order for MMR-V submitted to the VFC Program after this notification will be automatically processed as single antigen varicella vaccine and MMR vaccine. We will notify you when MMR-V is again available for ordering through the VFC Program.

Varicella vaccine will continue to be shipped directly from Merck, and MMR vaccine will be shipped along with your regular vaccine shipments from the VFC Program's national distributor, McKesson Specialty.

Enclosure: Order Form

cc: DHS Immunization Branch Field Representatives
Local Health Officers
Local Health Department Immunization Coordinators
Local Health Department CHDP Program Directors
Vanessa Baird, Chief, Medi-Cal Managed Care Division, CDHS
Marian Dalsey, M.D., Chief, Children Medical Services Branch, CDHS
Michael Farber, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Medi-Cal Managed Care, CDHS
Susann Steinberg, M.D., Chief, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning Branch, CDHS
Villita Lewis, Deputy Director, Benefits and Quality Monitoring, MRMIB
Marcia Ehinger, M.D., Medi-Cal Benefits Branch, CDHS
Kathy Chance, M.D., Children Medical Services Branch, CDHS

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN (VFC) PROGRAM

VACCINE ORDER FORM FAX TO: (877) 329-9832

NAME OF PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE, PRACTICE, CLINIC, ETC.

DATE

VFC PIN NUMBER (6 digit)

CONTACT PERSON

DELIVERY ADDRESS (Number and Street—No P.O. Boxes)

☐ CHECK HERE IF THIS IS A
NEW ADDRESS.

CITY

ZIP CODE

TELEPHONE:

FAX:

EMAIL:

COUNTY:

DELIVERY: Check all days and times you may receive vaccine. If closed during lunch hour, please specify.



Tue

From: to: (Closed for lunch from: to:)

Wed

From: to: (Closed for lunch from: to:)

Thur

From: to: (Closed for lunch from: to:)

Fri

From: to: (Closed for lunch from: to:)

STORAGE CAPACITY (Check All That Apply)
☐ Small Unit/Under
the Counter
Refrigerator

☐ Refrigerator/Freezer
Combination

☐ Stand alone
freezer

☐ Commercial/
Laboratory Grade
Unit

of units

of units

of units

of units

Please complete all sections on this order form in order for VFC to process your vaccine order.

Vaccines	DOSES USED	VACCINE INVENTORY (DOSES ON HAND)			NEW VACCINE ORDER		
	Number of doses used since last order. Enter "0" if none	Number of doses on hand (Current Inventory)	Lot Number	Expiration Date	Vaccine (Circle Choice)	Doses Requested (Multiples of 10)	Packaging (Check preferred presentation)

REGULAR ORDER VFC VACCINES

DTap					DAPTACEL®		Single dose vials – 10 per box
					Tripedia®		Single dose vials – 10 per box
					Infanrix®		<input type="checkbox"/> Single dose vials – 10 per box <input type="checkbox"/> Single dose syringes – 5 per box
DTaP/Hepatitis B/IPV					Pediarix®		<input type="checkbox"/> Single dose vials – 10 per box <input type="checkbox"/> Single dose syringes – 5 per box
Hepatitis A					VAQTA®		Single dose vials – 10 per box
					Havrix®		<input type="checkbox"/> Single dose vials – 10 per box <input type="checkbox"/> Single dose syringes – 5 per box
Hepatitis B					ENGRIX B®		<input type="checkbox"/> Single dose vials – 10 per box <input type="checkbox"/> Single dose syringes – 5 per box
					RECOMBIVAX®		Single dose vials – 10 per box
Hepatitis B/Hib					COMVAX®		Single dose vials – 10 per box
Hib					PedvaxHIB®		Single dose vials – 10 per box
					ActHIB®		Single dose vials – 5 per box
HPV					Gardasil®		Single dose vials – 10 per box
IPV					IPOL®		<input type="checkbox"/> 10 dose vial <input type="checkbox"/> Single dose syringes – 10 per box
Meningococcal Conjugate					Menactra™		Single dose vials – 5 per box
Pneumococcal Conjugate					Prevnar®		Single dose syringes – 10 per box
Rotavirus					RotaTeq®		Single dose tubes – 10 per box
Td					DECAVAC™		<input type="checkbox"/> Single dose vials – 10 per box <input type="checkbox"/> Single dose syringes – 10 per box
Tdap					ADACEL		Single dose vials – 10 per box
					BOOSTRIX		<input type="checkbox"/> Single dose vials – 10 per box <input type="checkbox"/> Single dose syringes – 5 per box

VFC VACCINES STORED IN THE FREEZER

Varicella					VARIVAX®		Single dose vials – 10 per box
MMR/Varicella					Currently not available. Please order single antigen varicella and MMR vaccines instead.		
MMR					MMR-II®		Single dose vials – 10 per box

IMPORTANT: IF MY VACCINE BRAND CHOICE AND PACKAGING IS NOT AVAILABLE:

- ☐ Send another vaccine brand/packaging
☐ Send the vaccine brand/packaging I circled above when it is available

Place your order with sufficient stock on hand to allow 3-4 weeks for the processing and delivery of your vaccine order.





Instructions for Completing the VFC Vaccine Order Form

In order to ensure that your vaccine order is processed as quickly as possible, the VFC Vaccine Order form **must** be completely filled out. Fill in all blank sections of the form. Orders submitted in outdated forms may delay the processing of your vaccine order.

Instructions:

1. Enter your clinic's PIN number.

The PIN number is the six-digit Provider Identification Number assigned to your clinic upon enrolling in the VFC Program. (This is not your medical license or CHDP/Medi-Cal provider numbers). Your PIN can be found in the upper, right portion of one of your VFC shipping invoices under the title, "FOR RETURNS, REFER TO". You may contact the VFC Office to obtain your PIN #.

2. Use the same facility name that you used when enrolling in the VFC Program.

The facility name can be found on the packing slips that accompany the vaccine shipments. Do not change this VFC facility name without first notifying the VFC Program in writing, even if the clinic name has changed or is incorrect.

3. Specify the address where the VFC Program should deliver vaccines.

Check the appropriate box on the order form if this is a new address. (Remember to include a letter regarding the change of address with your vaccine order.)

4. Specify all days and times during which you can receive delivery of VFC vaccine.

The VFC Program's wholesale distributor delivers vaccine Tuesday through Friday only. When specifying delivery times, take into account times of the day during which you cannot receive deliveries of VFC vaccine (e.g., lunch).

5. Record usage of all VFC vaccine you have administered since your last order.

This Information is easily obtained from a usage log or any other usage reports (e.g., Registry-generated usage reports).

6. List current inventory of all VFC vaccines when completing the order form. (Do not report inventories of privately purchased vaccines)

List the amount of VFC vaccine on-hand in your refrigerator and freezer, along with their corresponding lot numbers and expiration dates. You may use a separate sheet of paper to record additional lot numbers if needed. You may also attach a registry-generated inventory report outlining detailed information on lot numbers and expiration dates. However, you must still record the total number of doses on-hand in the order form. This will assist the Customer Service Representatives in approving your vaccine order in a timely manner.

7. Select product choice and indicate the number of vaccine doses requested.

The number of doses requested must be in multiples of 10, since most products are shipped in packages of 10 single dose vials/syringes or 10-dose multi-dose vials.

8. Indicate packaging preference for requested product.

When indicated, check your choice of product presentation or packaging. If you do not specify a vaccine preference or packaging, the VFC Program will send vaccine that is currently on stock.

When Completed:

Fax to: (877) 329-9832 (toll-free)

OR

Mail to: Vaccines for Children Program
State of California Department of Health Services,
Immunization Branch
850 Marina Bay Parkway Building P, Upstairs
Richmond, CA 94804

Always keep a copy for your records!

For Questions Call: (877) 243-8832

OR

Contact your local VFC Representative